

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the Office Action mailed on March 9, 2006.

Claims 1-22 are pending in the patent application. Claim 19 has been withdrawn. Claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 21 have been amended. Claim 3 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Furthermore, the specification and drawings have been amended to correct informalities. No new matter has been added by this response.

In the Office Action, the drawings are objected to under 37 CFR § 1.84(p)(5) because the reference signs 30 and 101 mentioned in the description are not found in the drawings. Applicant has amended the drawings to include reference signs 30 and 101. Replacement drawings are enclosed with this response.

The drawings are also objected to under 37 CFR § 1.83(a) because the Patent Office states that the drawings fail to show first and second projections on the wall each having a base portion and an attachment portion. Applicant disagrees and respectfully traverses this rejection.

Referring to Figs. 2 and 3, the drawings show a first or upper projection 47 having a base portion (i.e., sloping wall portion 43) and an attachment portion (i.e., the end of projection 47). (See the specification at page 5, lines 3-20). The drawings also show a second or lower projection 50 having a base portion (i.e., stem 51) and an attachment portion (i.e., arms 52 or 53). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the drawings sufficiently show and support a first and second projection each having a base portion and an attachment portion.

The specification is objected to because of an informality. Specifically, the Patent Office states that the phrase "drawer 40" at line 5 on page 5 should be "drawer front 40. Applicant has amended the specification on page 5, line 5 to change "drawer 40" to "drawing front 40."

Claim 4 is objected to based on an informality. Specifically, the Patent Office states that the phrase “parallel to the second plane” in line 2 of claim 4 should be “parallel to a second plane.” Applicant has amended claim 4 to correct the informality.

In the Office Action, claims 11-18 and 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Patent Office states that the term “and/or” is vague. Applicant has amended the claims to remove the term “and/or.”

The Patent Office also states that the term “the attachment portion” in claims 16 and 17 is vague. Applicant has amended claims 16 and 17 to identify that the attachment portion recited in these claims is associated with the mounting structure.

The Patent Office further states that the claim term “a folded-under portion” is vague in claims 16 and 17. Applicant respectfully disagrees with and traverses this rejection. The “folded-under portion” is the folded-under distal end portion 34A shown in Fig. 5 and described on page 7 of the specification. Applicant submits that the term “folded-under portion” recited in claims 16 and 17 is shown in the drawings and adequately described in the specification and therefore the rejection of this term as being vague should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-7, 9-12, 14-18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,842,420 to Hansen et al. (“*Hansen*”). Applicant respectfully disagrees with and traverses this rejections for the following reasons.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a drawer panel for the front end of a drawer that includes an elongated wall having a front surface and a rear surface. The drawer panel also includes a projection on the wall that has a base portion extending rearwardly of the rear surface of the wall and an attachment portion integral with the base portion and extending substantially parallel to the rear side of the wall for cooperation with the rear surface of the wall to define an

open-ended channel therebetween. The drawer panel includes a drawer pull at the front surface of the wall.

Hansen is directed to a drawer front having a front wall 10 attached to side walls 11 and 12 using mating dovetail projections as shown in Fig. 1. *Hansen* does not disclose or suggest a drawer panel having a projection including a base portion and an attachment portion where the attachment portion is integral with the base portion and extends substantially parallel to the rear side of the wall. The sides of the dovetail portions of the front wall 10 are angled with respect to the rear surface of the front wall but are not parallel to that wall. Furthermore, *Hansen* does not disclose or suggest that the dovetails cooperate with the rear surface of the front wall to define open-ended channels as in the claimed invention. Typically, dovetail projections or connectors are located at the ends or sides of the front wall to connect the drawer front to the ends of the side walls. The dovetail connectors in *Hansen* do not form channels therefore which extend across the entire length of the rear side of the front wall nor does *Hansen* teach such open-ended channels.

Hansen also does not disclose or suggest the subject matter of claim 9 that a drawer pull projects forwardly of the front wall 10. Instead, *Hansen* discloses a channel which is recessed from the front surface of the front wall.

Hansen also does not disclose or suggest the subject matter of claim 13 which states that the front panel is crimped to the mounting structure. Nothing in *Hansen* states that the dovetail connectors are crimped together nor can this be inferred from *Hansen* because crimping the dovetail connectors would break or damage these connectors and inhibit the connection between the front wall and the side walls.

For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that amended claims 1 and 11 and claims 2-10, 12-18 and 20, which depend from these claims, are each patentably distinguished over *Hansen* and in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-3, 8 and 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent no. 5,161,870 to Mason et al. (“*Mason*”). Applicant respectfully disagrees with and traverses this rejection for the following reasons.

Mason is directed to a file drawer having a removable outer drawer head 20. *Mason* does not disclose or suggest a projection having an attachment portion and a base portion where the attachment portion extends substantially parallel to the rear side of the front wall for cooperation with the rear surface of the wall to define an open-ended channel. Instead, *Mason* discloses an L-shaped flange 48 which extends from the rear side of the outer drawer head 20. The flange 48 is transverse to or at an 90° angle to the rear surface of the outer head 20. Thus, *Mason* does not disclose or suggest an attachment portion which is substantially parallel to a rear side of the front wall as in the claimed invention. Furthermore, because the flange is at a 90° angle with the rear side of the front wall, *Mason* does not disclose or suggest that the attachment portion and base portion define an open-ended channel as in the claimed invention.

Moreover, the outer head 20 defines a rectangular cut 46 for accepting a handle insert or drawer pull. (Col. 2, lines 62-28). *Mason* does not disclose or suggest a drawer pull or other handle that is attached to the front surface of the wall of the drawer panel as in the claimed invention.

Amended claims 1 and 11 include similar elements. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits for the reason provided above that amended claims 1 and 11 and claims 2, 4-10, 12-18,

and 20 which depend from these claims are each patentably distinguished from *Mason* and in condition for allowance.

Claims 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Mason*. Claim 21 is directed to a method of making a drawer which includes similar elements to amended claims 1 and 11. Accordingly, for the same reasons provided above with respect to amended claims 1 and 11, amended claim 21 and claim 22, which depends from amended claim 21, are each patentably distinguished over *Mason* and in condition for allowance.

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-2, 4-18 and 20-22 are patentable and non-obvious of the art of record because the cited art does not disclose, teach, or suggest the subject matter of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that claims 1-2, 4-18 and 20-22 be deemed allowable at this time and that a timely notice of allowance be issued in this case.

No fees are due. If any other fees are due in connection with this application, the Patent Office is authorized to deduct the fees from Deposit Account No. 19-1351. If such withdrawal is made, please indicate the attorney docket number (25493-457390) on the account statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 2, 3 and 7. These sheets replace the original sheets including Figs. 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets